

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to an optical unit including a collapsible lens and an image-pickup apparatus including the optical unit, in which particularly the collapsible lens may become further thinner and an optical filter may forcibly be made to escape from a position on its optical axis to a position off the optical axis on an abnormal occasion when an escape mechanism does not work and so on at the time of retracting, that is, at the time of collapsing the collapsible lens.

The collapsible optical unit according to the present invention having a fixed barrel, a lens barrel movable along a direction of its optical axis with respect to the fixed barrel, and a lens and an infrared cutoff filter provided between the fixed barrel and lens barrel includes the escape mechanism for making the infrared cutoff filter move in a direction intersecting the optical axis and escape off the optical axis when the lens barrel is collapsed to approach the infrared cutoff filter, which enables the lens to be retracted in a resulting position on the optical axis after the infrared cutoff filter has moved.

According to the above, when collapsing the optical unit, the lens held by the lens barrel can be retracted into a space on the optical axis made after the infrared cutoff filter made to escape in the direction intersecting the optical axis. Hence, a total length of the collapsible lens of the optical unit can be made thinner and the optical unit can be made smaller in size.